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Human rights: implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Information from Member States

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The present report is a compilation of the responses from Member States to the questionnaire on actions taken or planned to address and implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The questionnaire and the complete responses from Member States are available on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIISessions/Eleventh.aspx).

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I. Introduction

1. As at 28 February 2012, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had received written responses from the following States to its questionnaire on actions taken or planned to address and implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Ecuador, Denmark and Greenland,[1] Kuwait, Mexico and Paraguay. The complete written responses from States can be found on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://social.un.org/index/IndigenousPeoples/UNPFIISessions/Eleventh.aspx).

2. Many States outlined their commitment to promoting the rights of all citizens and cultures and the need to eliminate discrimination against marginalized groups in communities, including indigenous peoples. In many instances, national constitutions contain extensive safeguards to ensure that human rights apply uniformly to all citizens, as in the case of Kuwait. Other constitutions guarantee specific rights for indigenous peoples, such as those of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay.

3. There is evidence of greater participation by indigenous peoples in national decision-making processes. Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Ecuador and Mexico reported activities related to the consultation of indigenous peoples in decisions affecting them. Some States are in the process of developing legislation that will guarantee consultation with indigenous peoples in order to obtain their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with the standards established in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.[2]

4. The due dates for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples are fast approaching. This is the right moment for States, United Nations agencies and indigenous peoples' organizations to strengthen their activities and promote projects to ensure that those goals are met. Most States that answered the questionnaire referred to clear and concrete activities in that regard.

5. In November 2010 the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/198, decided to organize a high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014. Consultations regarding the organization of the Conference began in 2011. The Conference aims to be a forum for sharing perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including pursuing the objectives of the Declaration. Of those States that responded to the questionnaire, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Denmark and Greenland, Ecuador, and Mexico have actively participated in the promotion and organization of the Conference.

II. Response to recommendations from the tenth session of the Permanent Forum

6. At its tenth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that States and other entities systematically monitor, evaluate, assess and report on how free, prior and

[1] Greenland has an autonomous government within the Government of Denmark. Denmark submitted its report as "Denmark and Greenland".

[2] See resolution 61/295, annex, articles 10, 11, 19, 29, 30 and 32.

informed consent has or has not been recognized and applied with respect to the lands, territories and resources of the indigenous peoples concerned (E/2011/43, para. 38).

7. In 2011, the Plurinational State of Bolivia carried out six consultation processes with the following groups of indigenous peoples: Weenhayek, Mamore Federation, Kaaguasu, Macharety, Alto Parapeti, Charagua Norte, Takovo Mora and Parapitiguasu.

8. Since March 2010, the Government of Chile has organized 17 consultations with indigenous communities, including the following:

(a) Consultation on the modification of the inter-communal limit Freire and Padre las Casas;

(b) Consultation on the implementation of a bilingual curriculum design for the second year of basic school;

(c) Consultation on the reform of Law Decree 701;

(d) Consultation on projects related to patrimonial trails in Cabo de Hornos;

(e) Consultation on indigenous institutionalism: the Government working with the National Council of the National Corporation of Indigenous Development to define how to establish the "consultation on the consultation" on the new ruling on indigenous consultation and participation;

(f) Consultation on the census to be conducted in 2012;

(g) Consultation on the Cultural Centre Isla de Pascua.

9. In addition, Chile reported that, in 2011, for the first time in the history of the National Council of the National Corporation of Indigenous Development, a budget of 314 million Chilean pesos was allocated specifically for indigenous consultations. For 2012, Chile plans to increase its budget to 684 million pesos, a more than 200 per cent increase.

10. Mexico published its Law on indigenous consultation for the State and the municipalities of San Luis Potosi in July 2010 to implement the same recommendation. This Law outlines the objectives of the consultation procedures within the international standards set out in the Declaration. One of the Law's objectives is to obtain the prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and their communities. On 31 December 2011, a constitutional reform on indigenous peoples issues complying with the principles enshrined in the Declaration on free, prior and informed consent was published.

11. A review of the draft general law on the consultation of indigenous peoples and communities, which complies with International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 and the Declaration, is ongoing. The Government of Mexico, through the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples, has a system of indigenous consultation, which has developed more than 25 consultations on issues affecting indigenous peoples, including legislative reform, the recognition of rights, culture, the environment, health and education. Therefore, the right to participate in the decision-making process is duly respected.

12. At its tenth session, the Permanent Forum recommended the establishment of national initiatives, programmes and plans of work to implement the Declaration. States and indigenous peoples were asked to report regularly to their national

legislative bodies and to the Forum on the progress and shortcomings in implementing the Declaration (E/2011/43, para. 47). Greenland, in cooperation with the Inuit Circumpolar Council, published a translation of the Declaration into Greenlandic and Danish. The Parliament of Greenland regularly holds debates on the implementation of the Declaration in its sessions, either as a whole or with regard to specific provisions.

13. Also at its tenth session, the Permanent Forum recommended that States recognize indigenous peoples' rights to forests and review and amend laws that are not consistent with the Declaration or other international standards on indigenous peoples' land and natural resource rights, including over forests (E/2011/43, para. 18). With respect to the recognition of indigenous peoples' right to forests and to international norms related to lands, natural resources and full and effective participation in the decision-making process, the constitutional framework of Ecuador guarantees those rights through the recognition of the 21 collective rights enshrined in article 57 of the Constitution. Furthermore, it has recognized the right to natural resources and water as fundamental human rights.

14. In Paraguay, the Ministry of Culture has started a process of recognition and protection of indigenous peoples' territories and cultures through the implementation of a project entitled "Marking territory and expressing culture". One of the projects targets the Totobiegosode peoples, who live in voluntary isolation and have suffered the consequences of deforestation. The project safeguards the territory and integrity of the group, as well as their right to self-determination. The territory of the Totobiegosode peoples has been delimited in order to protect their patrimony, as well as the territory's culture and biodiversity. Paraguay also reported the development of a project to preserve the ancestral lands of the Enlhet peoples. As in the case of the Totobiegosode peoples, the territory of the Enlhet peoples has been delimited. In order to preserve their culture, the Enlhet peoples will produce a documentary.

III. Efforts of Governments regarding indigenous peoples and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

15. All United Nations Member States have agreed to achieve eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000, commits world leaders to combating poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability and developing global partnerships.

16. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the national development plan is in line with the Millennium Development Goals, and projects to eradicate poverty are being undertaken under way. The Ministry of Autonomy provides technical assistance in the preparation of indigenous autonomous statutes so that they comply with the Goals.

17. Chile reported that it had the most significant achievements of the countries in the region in reaching the Millennium Development Goals but noted that there was still much to be done to increase gender equality and decrease disparities between income levels, between the capital region and the other regions and between

indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. Chile is taking measures in cooperation with the United Nations to compare progress towards achieving the Goals for indigenous and non-indigenous peoples. Chile believes that achieving most of the Goals by 2015 will be possible but stresses the importance of paying attention to disaggregated data that is specific to indigenous peoples concerning the minimum indicators.

18. In Ecuador, a programme for the development and cultural diversity to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion has been developed in line with the Millennium Development Goals in the provinces of Sucumbios, Chimborazo and Esmeraldas, which are among the poorest in the country. The programme promotes the revalorization of culture, inclusion and intercultural dialogue. It focuses on closing the gap caused by discrimination and exclusion and on the exercise of indigenous peoples' rights. Discrimination and exclusion limit access, inter alia, to education, health and means of agricultural production that have an impact on indigenous peoples' living conditions.

19. In Denmark and Greenland, the protection of indigenous peoples' rights and the Millennium Development Goals form an integral part of the Danish development strategy.

20. In an effort to reduce inequality between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples and in order to comply with the Millennium Development Goals, Mexico has taken different measures, such as reforming its Constitution and incorporating indigenous peoples' issues into all actions taken by the Government. This is also reflected in the budget approved for indigenous peoples' issues.

21. In Paraguay, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, in coordination with the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute, carried out a project to strengthen the capacity of women handcrafters in the Ayoreo community, sharing production techniques and opportunities for the commercialization of their products. The Ministry of Children and Adolescents provides direct attention to indigenous peoples in urban areas. The first stage of this project took place in the community of Cerro Poty.

IV. Government responses on the special theme

A. The Doctrine of Discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for past conquests (articles 28 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

22. Article 1 of the Indigenous Law of Chile indicates that the protection of indigenous territories is a duty of society, in particular the State. Article 12 defines indigenous territories as: territories that indigenous peoples currently occupy and own in accordance with the relevant legislation; territories that are historically indigenous and entered in the Register of Indigenous Lands; and territories declared indigenous property by the courts or those received from the State. The collective property of indigenous territories can be claimed either by indigenous communities recognized as a legal person or by a group of two or more persons. Chilean legislation also recognizes individual property owned by an indigenous person.

23. The Doctrine of Discovery justified the way in which colonial powers laid claim to lands belonging to sovereign indigenous nations during the Age of Discovery. Under the doctrine, title to lands lay with the Government, whose subjects explored and occupied a territory whose inhabitants were not subjects of a European Christian monarch. The doctrine has been primarily used to support decisions invalidating or ignoring indigenous possession of land in favour of colonial or post-colonial Governments. According to the Government of Ecuador, the concept of "discovery" has been discarded in that country. The rights of indigenous peoples and nationalities are recognized in the Constitution, and programmes are promoted by the Government. Ecuador looks not only at compensation but also at the idea of "living well", meaning having all one's basic needs met while existing in harmony with the natural world, as opposed to "living better" by seeking to amass more and more material goods at the expense of others and the environment.

24. Mexico reported that article 2 (A), paragraphs V and VI, of its Constitution state that it recognizes and guarantees the right of indigenous peoples and communities to self-determination and, as a consequence, autonomy to conserve and improve the habitat and preserve the integrity of their lands in accordance with the Constitution; and to have access to the forms and modalities of property of land established in the Constitution and related laws on the matter, as well as the rights acquired by third parties or by other members of the community to the preferential use and enjoyment of natural resources of the places they live in, except for those that are strategic areas according to the Constitution.

25. In Paraguay, the Doctrine of Discovery was repealed in the current Constitution, which recognizes the existence of indigenous peoples, defined as cultural groups existing prior to the formation and organization of the Paraguayan State (article 62). The Ministry of Women's Affairs, in the framework of a meeting of Guarani women, raised the issue of the impact of "discovery" and paid tribute to Juliana, an indigenous woman who sought the recovery of her ancestral lands.

B. The right of indigenous peoples to food and food sovereignty

26. The Plurinational State of Bolivia created a programme to support food security. Through the programme, indigenous peoples and farmers administer and execute projects in the framework of food sovereignty and security, supporting the production, distribution and consumption of healthy food.

27. Ecuador reported that the right to food was guaranteed in its Constitution and social programmes that target the poorest and most vulnerable citizens, of which indigenous peoples represent the highest percentage. The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion promotes the programme of access to food for indigenous peoples. Furthermore, Ecuador adopted the Organic Law on Food Sovereignty, which recognizes indigenous knowledge, protects native seeds and guarantees the right to food.

28. In Mexico, a programme was established to provide adequate housing and food to indigenous students registered in primary school. Under the programme, food is provided to more than 60,000 children every school year.

29. Paraguayan Law 3.728/10 states that every citizen older than 65 years who is living in poverty in Paraguayan territory will receive a monthly pension of no less than one fourth of the minimum salary from the State. This pension is considered to be one of the services that can benefit elder people, including indigenous elders. In 2011, 2,954 indigenous persons registered to receive the pension, and of those, 1,036 received it. One of the main obstacles to obtaining access to this benefit is the lack of required identification documents. Paraguay is making efforts to respond to the lack of documentation among indigenous peoples.

C. High-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples

30. The Plurinational State of Bolivia promoted the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on the holding of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014. Furthermore, it has been actively participating in the organization of the Conference.

31. The Government of Chile was one of the co-sponsors of the General Assembly resolution on the World Conference and intends to do everything in its means to make the Conference successful. The Government is committed to resolving the problems facing the country's indigenous peoples by ratifying ILO Convention No. 169 on indigenous and tribal peoples and supports the Declaration.

32. Denmark, in cooperation with the autonomous government of Greenland, co-sponsored the resolutions on the World Conference in both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Denmark participated in and co-sponsored a consultation meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in New York in November 2011. Greenland, together with the Sami Parliament of Norway and the International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs co-organized the Open-ended Indigenous Peoples' Brainstorming Meeting on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in Copenhagen on 13 and 14 January 2012.

33. Ecuador has been involved in the sessions of the Permanent Forum. In this regard, the institutions of Ecuador on indigenous issues are preparing to participate in the World Conference.

34. Kuwait reported that, motivated by its global responsibility as a State Member of the United Nations, it will attend the World Conference. It stands ready to cooperate with the world community to alleviate and redress the hardships of the less fortunate, if resources allow.

35. In the framework of the tenth session of the Permanent Forum, the Director-General of the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples in Mexico stated that Mexico had co-sponsored the General Assembly resolution on the World Conference. Furthermore, he said that Mexico had supported the idea of organizing a continental meeting in preparation for the World Conference, through the Trust Fund of the Permanent Forum.

V. Governments' responses concerning compliance with the goals of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

36. The Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 2004. The goal of the Second Decade, with the theme "Partnership for action and dignity", is the further strengthening of international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous peoples in areas such as culture, education, health, human rights, the environment and social and economic development, by means of action-oriented programmes and specific projects, increased technical assistance and relevant standard-setting activities.

37. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the technical support provided in the preparation of the indigenous autonomous statutes promotes compliance with the following objectives of the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People: to promote full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions affecting them; redefine development from a vision of equity in a culturally appropriate way, "development with identity"; and adopt targeted policies, programmes, projects and budgets for indigenous peoples.

38. In Chile, Parliament is currently reviewing a draft law against discrimination. The law aims at establishing a legal mechanism to effectively restore the rule of law when an act of arbitrary discrimination is committed, in which arbitrary discrimination refers to discriminatory acts committed both by agents of the State and individuals and includes discrimination based on race and ethnicity. The Government also makes every effort to implement and institutionalize the standards on consultation and participation set out in ILO Convention No. 169.

39. Denmark and Greenland reported that the Declaration and the establishment of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are very tangible results and provide important tools for achieving the objectives of the Second Decade and promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in decisions that directly or indirectly affect their lifestyles, traditional lands and territories, their cultural integrity as indigenous peoples with collective rights or any other aspect of their lives, considering the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

40. Ecuador is promoting regional development for indigenous communities and Afro-descendent communities in the high Andes, tropical areas and Amazonia in the north of the country. Ecuador received US$ 6.8 million from Spain, which was channelled through the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The development projects are carried out in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Imbabura, Carchi and Sucumbios.

41. Mexico reported that the federal Government focused on indigenous peoples through a number of offices working according to the transversal principle on different aspects of the rights of indigenous peoples. Since 2009, it has advanced the five objectives of the Second Decade, namely, indigenous rights, development with identity, recognition and value of cultural and linguistic identity, participation and consultation for an effective democracy and institutional work to achieve a diverse cultural and linguistic country.

42. In 2011, the National Secretary of Culture of Paraguay created the Directorate for Indigenous Issues, which will articulate the implementation of State policies

related to the culture of indigenous peoples. The Directorate has been working to strengthen and promote the cultural rights and expressions of indigenous peoples, in recognition of their ancestral territories and in the recovery of their collective memory, through the implementation of projects to support indigenous peoples' initiatives. It has also promoted the participation of indigenous leaders in national and international forums.

VI. Factors that facilitate implementation by Governments of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

43. Chile considers persuasion of the Government on indigenous peoples' rights as an important factor when putting the recommendations of the Permanent Forum into practice. Chilean policy on indigenous peoples promotes participation, empowerment and entrepreneurship. It focuses on the following working areas: language; culture and education; lands; institutions; participation and consultation; and comprehensive development.

44. Denmark and Greenland reported that they are generally interested in and supportive of the work of the Permanent Forum. Even though the Government of Greenland is a form of public rather than indigenous self-government, all members of both the government and Parliament of Greenland are of Inuit descent.

45. Ecuador is in the process of institutional and legal change, through which the basis for a plurinational and intercultural society is established. In order to guarantee this change, such institutions as the Ministry of Patrimony, the Secretariat of Peoples, Social Movements and Social Participation, the Under-Secretary of Bilingual Education, the Institute for Regional Eco-Development in the Amazonia, the Intercultural Health Direction and the National Council for the Development of Nationalities and Peoples of Ecuador are executing State policies related to nationalities and indigenous peoples.

46. Mexico, in cooperation and collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, as well as with other States, organizations and international agencies, supports compliance with the recommendations of the Permanent Forum. It also provides opportunities to exchange good practices and required resources for the development and protection of indigenous peoples' rights in the country.

47. In Paraguay, resources provided in 2011 for the commemoration of the anniversary of national independence facilitated the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum, including wide-ranging collaboration from indigenous peoples' organizations and communities on programmes and projects to strengthen their cultures.

VII. Specific laws and/or policies that address indigenous peoples' issues

48. In addition to its Constitution, Chile reported the existence of 97 decrees, 16 laws and 4 presidential instructions to address indigenous peoples' issues.

49. Denmark and Greenland have guidelines on the Danish policy on indigenous issues, including the strategy for Danish support to indigenous peoples, the strategy

for the Arctic 2011-2020, and a "How to" note on indigenous peoples. One of the first acts of the Government of Greenland after the introduction of self-government was to introduce legislation aimed at the retention of the indigenous language, Greenlandic (Kalaallisut).

50. In Ecuador, since the approval of the 2008 Constitution, laws and policies related to indigenous issues have been adopted. The "Living well" national plan is aimed at reducing poverty, fostering social inclusion and creating opportunities for all Ecuadorians without distinction based on social class, ethnicity or social group. Legislation promotes the plurinational plan for the elimination of racial discrimination and ethnic and cultural exclusion. Other legislation covers areas such as citizen's participation; food sovereignty; territorial organization, autonomy and decentralization; intercultural education; and the exercise and application of collective rights in indigenous communities.

51. Mexico reported that there are 39 pieces of legislation at the federal level that cover indigenous peoples' rights. Out of 32 State laws, 23 pertain to indigenous peoples' rights.

52. Chapter V, title II, of the National Constitution of Paraguay recognizes the rights of indigenous peoples as groups existing prior to the formation of the Paraguayan State and guarantees their own rights in accordance with their customary law. Law 904/1981 refers to the statute of indigenous communities. Amendments to the statute are found in Law 919/1996 and Law 2199/2003. These Laws recognize specific rights for indigenous peoples and lead to the creation of Paraguayan policy, including the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute.

53. Paraguay voted in favour of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and is a State party to ILO Convention No. 169. The country has a body of national legislation covering issues of concern to indigenous peoples.

54. Since 2010, the Government of Paraguay has promulgated presidential decrees establishing activities related to indigenous peoples, including a national programme for indigenous peoples, integrated by various State organs and coordinated by the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute and an inter-institutional commission for compliance with the international judgements of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the recommendations of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

55. In Paraguay, Law 57/90 ratifies the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which, in article 30, makes reference to indigenous children and minorities. In Paraguay, the Subcommission on Human Rights was created, inter alia, to prevent forced labour. The Subcommission met twice in 2011.

VIII. Focus, laws, programmes and institutions to address indigenous children's and youth issues

56. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has established a scholarship programme for young indigenous students. This programme provides 300 scholarships for indigenous young people in need of support for their studies. Since 2006, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has established 406 *telecentros*, which provide

education through the medium of television. Of those centres, 95 per cent have been installed in rural areas and indigenous peoples' territories. The country, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided educational materials to 5,000 students in the municipalities of Muyupampa, Carapari, Lagunillas, Cuevo and Machareti.

57. In Chile, indigenous young people have access to scholarships that provide economic support to indigenous students at all academic levels. Funding towards such scholarships significantly increased between 2010 and 2011. Through its programme on intercultural bilingual education, the Ministry of Education continues to promote the preservation of languages and cultures. The Ministry of Social Development and UNICEF have jointly carried out a study to identify the demographic situation and living conditions of indigenous children and youth in Chile, specifically in the areas of income, education, health, housing, labour, access to technology and information, and participation. The study provided Chile with disaggregated data on indigenous children and youth.

58. Denmark and Greenland reported that the Inuit Circumpolar Youth Council has a seat on the Greenland delegation to the Inuit Circumpolar Council. The Inuit youth organization occasionally cooperates with government departments on joint youth projects.

59. In Ecuador, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion is the main institution responsible for youth issues. The National Institute for the Children and Family works on issues related to the most vulnerable people in the country, mainly indigenous peoples.

60. Mexico has a project on scholarships for indigenous students. This project provides economic support and follows up the education of indigenous students at the university level to reduce the disadvantages generated by exclusion, discrimination and marginalization, in order to enforce the right of indigenous peoples to education. In 2011, 800 scholarships were provided, most of them going to indigenous women.

61. In Paraguay, the General Directorate of Indigenous Education promotes and develops indigenous peoples' education with an inter/multicultural focus to respect diversity and strengthen indigenous cultures in the education system. This includes their own curriculum and specific materials for each community. Furthermore, Paraguay reported the establishment of an inter-institutional mechanism that gives attention to homeless indigenous children, young people and families. This mechanism articulates the activities of the State institutions with indigenous peoples' organizations.

IX. Focus, laws and programmes to address indigenous women's issues

62. The Plurinational State of Bolivia reported the establishment of the programme Semilla ("seed"), a joint programme of the country, the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the United Nations system. The programme offers services in favour of the economic and social development of rural women. It aims to procure the means for a sustainable life for them and their families, through broader access

to productive resources, property of land and life planning. The programme has benefited 3,753 women in 18 municipalities.

63. In Chile, an interdisciplinary commission of the National Corporation of Indigenous Development coordinates policies aimed at indigenous women, incorporating the gender variable in all tenders and agreements while also seeking cooperation with other public services. The goal of the Corporation in this respect is to promote indigenous women's social participation and cultural empowerment, foster their participation in the economic sphere and pay special attention to the rights of indigenous women while promoting the rights of indigenous peoples. Chile draws attention to four recent inter-institutional agreements concerning indigenous women's issues and gender issues, demonstrating how Chile puts these goals into practice.

64. In Greenland, the Arnat Peqatigiit Kattuffiat, the oldest nationwide women's association in Greenland, was instrumental in establishing the Arnat Ilinniarfiat, a women's high school, as part of the 50-year-old Knud Rasmussen folk high school. The school focused on preservation of traditional knowledge and Inuit handcrafts. Arnat Ilinniarfiat is funded by the government of Greenland. Several women's groups have, over time, targeted specific issues related to the protection of vulnerable women and children and the promotion of the rights of women and children. Some of these initiatives are now partly or fully funded by the government.

65. In Ecuador, the Popular Economy and Solidarity Institute supports projects related to women. According to article 156 of the Constitution, the National Council for Equality is responsible for guaranteeing the rights enshrined in the Constitution and the international human rights instruments. The National Directorate of Bilingual Intercultural Education and the national intercultural health programme are both directed by indigenous women. State institutions, in compliance with the constitutional mandate, are incorporating the participation of professional indigenous persons in their work.

66. Mexico reported that since 2008, the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples has established specific projects to look for solutions to the problems faced by indigenous women related to their rights, especially in relation to the prevention of gender violence, sexual and reproductive health, and the empowerment, professionalization and political participation of indigenous women.

X. National institutions for indigenous peoples' issues

67. The Plurinational State of Bolivia reported that there was no specific institution on indigenous peoples' issues, as the Government works on the matter in a cross-cutting manner.

68. In Chile, the main institution that has responsibility for indigenous policy is the National Corporation of Indigenous Development, which is supervised by the Ministry of Social Development. Under the Office of the Secretary-General of the Presidency, the Unit for Indigenous Coordination ensures the development and execution of the programmatic and legislative agenda of the Government. Units for indigenous issues are being created in all ministries and municipalities, and a

Ministers' Council of Indigenous Issues has also been created with the aim of advising the President in designing and coordinating public policies towards indigenous peoples.

69. Ecuador reported the existence of many institutions working on indigenous peoples' issues, such as the Development Council of Peoples and Nationalities of Ecuador (http://www.codenpe.gov.ec, e-mail: pueblos@codenpe.gov.ec).

70. In Mexico, the specialized institution on indigenous peoples' issues is the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples (http://www.cdi.gob.mx).

71. In Paraguay, the specialized institutions working on indigenous peoples are the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute (e-mail: secretariageneral@indi.gov.py and presidency@indi.gov.py) and the Direction on Indigenous Issues of the General Direction for the Promotion of Communitarian Culture, under the National Ministry of Culture (e-mail: lea.gestioncultural@gmail.com).

XI. Capacity-building programmes on indigenous peoples' issues for civil servants

72. The Plurinational State of Bolivia has established a diploma in plurinational government management, and 296 professionals have attended this course. There is also a master's degree programme in plurinational state management.

73. In Chile, units of indigenous issues have been created in all ministries and municipalities. In five instances, capacity-building programmes have been held for officials working in those units. The most recent workshop, held in January 2012 in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, was aimed at adapting programmes and instruments to the needs of indigenous peoples.

74. Ecuador reported that the National Council for the Development of Nationalities and Peoples had developed workshops on interculturality for 30 officials at different levels in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Minister Coordinator of the Patrimony had developed a module on indigenous women's rights, which would be implemented as part of its public policy on gender and interculturality.

75. In Mexico, the National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples has a programme through which it organizes workshops for federal and State-level public servants to enable them to assist indigenous peoples. In 2011, 26 workshops were organized for officials of the National Forest Commission, the National Immigration Commission, the Agrarian Commission and the Agrarian Prosecutor, and 11 workshops were organized at the State level.

76. In 2011, in Paraguay, the Direction for Human Rights of the Supreme Court of Justice organized an international seminar on property rights of indigenous peoples having human rights as a framework for officials of the judiciary, the prosecutor's office, and public defenders, among others who take part in cases related to indigenous peoples. The training provided information regarding current legislation on indigenous issues in the framework of human rights and customary law, considering national and international jurisprudence. In addition, the Direction for Human Rights of the Supreme Court of Justice established strategic alliances with

indigenous peoples' organizations for the dissemination on the right to self-determination for indigenous peoples.

XII. Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

77. The Plurinational State of Bolivia reported its compliance with articles 18, 38 and 41 of the Declaration through a referendum to establish autonomous communities. A total of 12 municipalities participated in the referendum. Of those, 11 voted for their conversion to autonomous communities. The Government has provided training on how to exercise autonomy, starting with the development of an autonomous statute.

78. Chile, together with the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund, established a programme on strengthening national capacities to prevent and manage intercultural conflicts. Chile expects the programme to strengthen capacities for dialogue and agreement between indigenous peoples and the Government and to foster the processes and mechanisms of consultation and participation. Finally, Chile is working on the implementation of ILO Convention No. 169 through a communication campaign that emphasizes the positive aspects of cultural diversity and on the prevention of conflicts and development in the Araucania region. The capacities of regional governments are also being reinforced through inter-institutional cooperation with indigenous peoples' communities.

79. The Premier of Greenland and Cabinet Ministers promote indigenous rights when participating in international meetings. There is close cooperation between the government and the Parliament of Greenland and the Inuit Circumpolar Council.

80. Ecuador reported that the Government had given 14 radio stations to indigenous peoples in order for them to promote their own issues, including their rights. Progress in the fight against discrimination and racism, with the implementation of specific policies on this matter, was also reported.

81. In July 2010, the Presidents of the indigenous issues commissions of the local congresses in Mexico held three national meetings. As a result, a national conference was organized to promote the harmonization of the juridical frameworks at the State level in order to incorporate the principles of the national and international frameworks related to indigenous peoples. The National Commission for the Development of Indigenous Peoples works on the promotion of national legislation at the federal and State levels based on the Constitution and international instruments, such as ILO Convention No. 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

82. Paraguay reported that its General Directorate for Indigenous Health provides primary health care for indigenous peoples through the installation of family health units in their communities or close to them. A doctor, a nurse and a community health promoter work in each of 160 units, providing attention to 490 indigenous communities.